



Chesapeake Health Department

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Public Health Bulletin

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TO:	<u>Chesapeake Family Practice MDs, Pediatricians, & Urgent Care Centers</u>
SUBJECT:	Virginia Requires Tdap Vaccine for Rising 6th Graders

In 2005, the FDA approved two pertussis vaccines for adolescents and adults. As a result, the 2006 General Assembly approved legislation effective July 1, 2006, that requires a booster dose of pertussis-containing vaccine prior to entering the sixth grade if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine.

This new requirement recognizes that pertussis is a significant adolescent and adult disease. It is estimated that there are one million classic pertussis cases per year in adults and adolescents. Because vaccine immunity for pertussis eventually wanes, immunity after having pertussis is not life long.

Prior to the end of this school year, local school systems will be advising parents of rising 6th graders of this new school immunization requirement. Parents may be calling you to verify immunization records or schedule appointments.

If you administer vaccines, please administer Tdap. Only Tdap can be used in adolescents and adults. It contains tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis antigens, but the pertussis antigen is in a reduced amount. Tdap can be given simultaneously with a meningococcal vaccine if the latter is also indicated.

There are two vaccines available that include:

- ◆ Adacel (Sanofi Pasteur) for persons age 11 to 64
- ◆ Boostrix (GalaxoSmithKline) for persons aged 10 to 18

The Tdap Vaccine Information Sheet has details, including contraindications.

Copies are available at www.cdc.gov/nip

The Virginia Department of Health has authorized our local health department, effective June 1, 2006 to administer Tdap vaccine to children entering the sixth grade in the fall of 2006 and to work with school divisions to ensure that children are appropriately immunized as efficiently as possible. The health department may provide Tdap at no cost to children who will be enrolled in the 2006-07 school year.

Please contact the Chesapeake Health Department Immunization Coordinator, Sharon Bartlett, PHN Senior at 382-8690 if you have any questions or need a copy of the Tdap Vaccine Information Statement.